

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 CIAE-00 CU-02 INR-05 NSAE-00 RSC-01 USIE-00

AF-04 ARA-06 EA-06 EUR-12 NEA-06 ISO-00 OIC-02 SP-02

L-02 PA-01 PRS-01 SSO-00 INRE-00 SAB-01 /062 R

DRAFTED BY IO/UNP:POAKLEY:BKM

APPROVED BY IO:ROBLAKE

IO/UNESCO:RFORSTER

NEA:IAI:WSMITH

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O 161939Z NOV 74 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PARIS NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 253489

NESCO

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, OCON, UNESCO, IS

SUBJECT: UNESCO--ARAB-MOSLEM RESOLUTION ON ISRAELI
EXCAVATIONS IN JERUSALEN

REF: (A) PARIS 27150 (B) CAIRO 9222 (C) TEL AVIV 6318

1. OUR CONCLUSION BASED ON DEL'S DETAILED REPORT REFTEL
(A) LEADS US TO BELIEVE THAT THERE IS VERY LITTLE HOPE
OF REMOVING SANCTIONS PART OF ARAB-MOSLEM RESOLUTION ON
UNESCO ASSISTANCE TO ISRAEL BY REVERSING VOTE IN PLENARY.
ONLY OTHER OPTION OF TRYING TO HAVE THE LANGUAGE OF THE
RESOLUTION SOFTENED ALSO SEEMS TO HAVE NO CHANCE UNLESS
GOI IS WILLING TO MAKE SOME SORT OF GESTURE OF COMPROMISE
THAT WOULD ENABLE MODERATE ARABS AND OTHER CO-SPONSORS
TO CHANGE THEIR POSITION. UNDER PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES,
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AND NOTING GOI POSITION AS EXPRESSED IN REFTEL (C), AND

THEIR VIEW THAT MAKING CONCESSIONS MIGHT ADMIT TO SOME SORT OF WRONGDOING VIS-A-VIS SACRED MOSLEM SITES, AND NOTING THE EFFECT THAT SUCH A CHANGE IN POSITION MIGHT HAVE IN REGARD TO THE FUTURE STATUS OF JERUSALEM, WE BELIEVE NOT PROFITABLE TO APPROACH GOI NOW TO SHOW NEW FLEXIBILITY. LACKING ISRAELI GESTURE THERE IS LITTLE PROSPECT IN APPROACHING EITHER ARAB LEADERS OR MOSLEM CO-SPONSORS.

2. IN CIRCUMSTANCES OUR OBJECTIVE IS BY WORKING FOR IMPROVEMENT OF VOTE TO GIVE SIGN TO ISRAELIS AND OTHERS

OF STRENGTH OF OUR OPPOSITION TO SANCTIONS. THUS USDEL UNESCO SHOULD CONTINUE STRENUOUSLY TO SUPPORT FRIENDLY EFFORTS TO MODIFY LANGUAGE ON SANCTION ISSUE AND INCREASE THE NUMBER OF NEGATIVE VOTES AND ABSTENTIONS ON SANCTIONS PARAGRAPH.

3. RECOMMENDATION OF REFTEL (A) PARA D REGARDING APPROACHES TO THE PLO NOT APPROPRIATE UNDER PRESENT INSTRUCTIONS.

4. IF IN LINE WITH OBJECTIVES PARA 2 ABOVE, AND WITHOUT ISRAELI GESTURE, USDEL BELIEVES FURTHER SELECTED DEMARCHES IN CAPITALS MIGHT RESULT IN DIMINISHING MAJORITY. DEPARTMENT WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING YOUR RECOMMENDATION BY NIACT IMMEDIATE CABLE. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: RESOLUTIONS, SANCTIONS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, EXCAVATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 NOV 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: cunninfx
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE253489
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: POAKLEY:BKM
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740332-0101
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741136/aaaabeoj.tel
Line Count: 87
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: (A) PARIS 27150 (B) CAIRO 9222 (C) T, EL AVIV 6318
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: cunninfx
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01 MAY 2002 by cunninfx>; APPROVED <20 MAR 2003 by cunninfx>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: UNESCO--ARAB-MOSLEM RESOLUTION ON ISRAELI EXCAVATIONS IN JERUSALEN
TAGS: PFOR, OCON, IS, US, UNESCO, JERUSALEM
To: PARIS
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005